



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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City Public Works Director Taps Jeff Taylor As New Public Utilities Deputy and Gary Oradat As Chief of Staff

(Houston, Texas) – City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department Director Jon C. Vanden Bosch announced today that effective April 1, 2002 Jeff Taylor will assume the helm of the Department's Public Utilities Division. As Deputy Director with overall responsibility for the Division, Taylor will be in charge of an approximately \$174 million budget and over 1,550 employees.

His new responsibilities will include managing the maintenance and repair of the City's approximately 14,000 miles of sewer and water pipes, the production of water on a regional basis from the City's 197 groundwater wells and five water treatment plants and the treatment of waste water at the City's 39 waste water treatment facilities. Taylor will also be responsible for ensuring that Houston and much of the surrounding area is able to meet its future water supply needs.

Taylor holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Science and Engineering from Rice University. He has 21 years of civil engineering experience in the planning, design and permitting of water, wastewater, drainage and transportation projects. Three of those years were spent with the City of Houston as a Division Manager in the Public Works Department's Public Utilities Division. Taylor has worked since 1991 for Brown and Root as a Project Manager in their Environmental and Water Resources Engineering group. In that capacity, he focused on the planning and analysis of strategies designed to meet the projected future water supply demands of a 32-county region of southeast Texas including the Houston and Beaumont metropolitan areas.

Gary Oradat, the current Deputy Director in charge of the Public Utilities Division, will assume the duties of the newly created position of Chief of Staff of the Public Works and Engineering Department. In his new role, Oradat will assist Vanden Bosch in coordinating the many activities of the Department.

A 1975 graduate of Texas A&M University with a degree in Civil Engineering, Oradat has been the Deputy Director of the Public Utilities Division since August of 1999. He is a twenty-year employee of the City of Houston and has a broad background in the planning, construction and management of water, wastewater and storm sewer systems.

Vanden Bosch stated, "I am very pleased that Jeff Taylor has accepted the position of Deputy Director over the Public Utilities Division. His experience with the planning and analysis of water-related issues in the entire region will allow us to keep up the momentum we have established over the last few years in making sure that we will be able to meet the projected future water supply needs of both the City and the region. I am also very pleased with Mr. Oradat's new assignment as Chief of Staff. He brings to the job a wealth of management experience and knowledge of both the city's infrastructure and the operations of the entire Public Works and Engineering Department. This new position will allow us to concentrate on taking the steps necessary to becoming a world-class public works department."

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